[Translation]

HBJ Pipeline

2795. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has asked the Gas Authority of india Ltd. (GAIL) to give up its $ 58.5 million claim on the Spie Capag-led, French consortium, which has been awarded the constract for laying the HBJ pipeline, and pay the consortium $ 71.11 million in damages;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this Government's decision; and

(c) the reaction of the GAIL Board thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The dispute between GAIL and Spie Capag has been settled on the lines recommended by the Indo-French Joint Committee. Both sides have withdrawn all their claims. GAIL has released withheld payments and has also paid USD 31 million as the settlement amount.

(b) The settlement was recommended to remove the uncertainties connected with protracted and expensive litigation and also to improve the bilateral relations between France and India.

(c) The GAIL Board has decided to implement the recommendations of the Joint Committee as approved by the Government of India.

[English]

Setting up of Power Plants

2796. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some power-plants along India's coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly the projects to be set up in Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(c) the stage at which the proposal stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG Cylinders

2797. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the adequate LPG cylinders are not being supplied in to the LPG dealers in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh due to which consumers have to face difficulty;

(b) if so, the month-wise requirement of LPG cylinder in Azamgarh district during the period July to December, 1996;

(c) the number of LPG cylinders actually supplied; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for regular and adequate supply of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Adequate number of LPG cylinders have been supplied in the District of Azamgarh (UP) by PSU Oil Companies. They have not received any complaint about short supply of LPG cylinders in Azamgarh District. However in September and October, 1996 spoadic shortage was experienced, which was soon overcome.

(b) and (c) The monthwise requirement of LPG Cylinders and the actual supplies of LPG during the period July, 96 to December, 96 in Azamgarh District are given as under :

Month	Demand	Supply (Refills)
July	15108	15040
August	16234	16329
September	15908	15652
October	16408	16325
November	16708	16313
December	17586	18706
Total	97952	98365

(d) The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in the country including Distt.-Azamgarh (U.P.), who are enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlogs that may arise, are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in the adjoining areas.

[English]

Family Credit Plan

2798. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched the